



## FACT SHEET

### Farm Dumps

#### What are farm dumps?

A farm dump is any area on a farm used to dispose of household garbage, junk furniture, appliances, farm chemicals and anything else that is no longer usable.

#### Why should I care?

Farm dumps may contain poisonous materials that could leak into water that people or livestock may be drinking. These materials include farm and household chemicals, batteries and oil filters. Even the small amount left in an empty container may be dangerous. Disease-carrying vermin breed in and around these dumps. Children who play around dumps could be injured or they could be trapped in old appliances.

#### What if no cleanup is done?

You could be subject to a fine. *Throwing away your own garbage on your own property is illegal.* It also is illegal to let others dump on your property. It is a violation of KRS 224.40-305 to "establish, construct, operate, maintain or permit the use of a waste site...without a permit." There are fines up to \$4,000 a day for having a dump on private property.

#### Just haul it

Burning dumps is illegal and pollutes the environment by changing chemicals and plastics into even more toxic chemicals. Hauling the trash to a permitted waste site is the only safe and legal way to get rid of it. Call your county judge-executive for the nearest locations.

It may be OK to bury fencing, lumber and wood waste, scrap metal, brush, brick and concrete on your farm unless the disposal site is in a sinkhole. You can contact the Division of Waste Management (see contact information below) for further guidance.

#### Dispose of pesticides properly

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has two programs to help farmers safely dispose of farm chemicals:

*The Pesticides Collection and Disposal Program.* Farmers who have unwanted pesticides should call 1-800-205-6543. Department employees, trained by the state Division of Disaster and Emergency Services, will come to the farm and collect the pesticides. The program deals only with pesticides. For more information go to

[http://www.kyagr.com/enviro\\_out/pestweed/programs/services/collection.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/enviro_out/pestweed/programs/services/collection.htm)

*The Rinse and Return Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program.* Bring properly rinsed, five gallon or smaller plastic containers to a collection site on the dates and times specified for your county. The schedule is posted at

[http://www.kyagr.com/enviro\\_out/pestweed/programs/services/recycle.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/enviro_out/pestweed/programs/services/recycle.htm)

To prepare containers:

- (1.) Triple rinse or pressure-rinse all containers immediately after they are emptied. Some pesticide residues solidify quickly and become difficult to remove from the container if left in the jug.
- (2.) Puncture the container so it can't be used, for example, to hold drinking water or food.
- (3.) Place the containers in a dry, secure place until they can be taken to the collection site.

- (4.) Dispose of the pesticide caps and remove sleeves and labels from containers. The pesticide caps are made of a different plastic material that cannot be currently recycled.

**Do the right thing: It's cheaper**

Recycling or throwing away trash properly is cheaper than the fine you might have to pay if you are caught. Some financial assistance may be available for cleanups if you act voluntarily. For more information on cleaning up farm dumps, contact your local solid waste coordinator (see list online at <http://www.waste.ky.gov/programs/rcla/County+Solid+Waste+Coordinators.htm> ), soil conservation district office (see contact information at <http://www.conservation.ky.gov/condistricts/> ), or the state Division of Waste Management.

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**Kentucky Division of Waste Management**

Governor Ernie Fletcher      Secretary LaJuana S. Wilcher  
14 Reilly Road, Frankfort KY 40601    Phone: (502) 564-6716 Fax: (502) 564-4049  
Telecommunications device for the deaf/hard-of-hearing: (502) 564-0172  
E-mail: [waste@ky.gov](mailto:waste@ky.gov) Web site: <http://www.waste.ky.gov/>

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December 2004